

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the 7 paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 2, which starts with "For instance," with the following amended 7 paragraphs:

Q. For instance, the image forming apparatus is used in the manner described below. First, the user directly connects a device that provides image data to the image forming apparatus using a fixed cable. Note that the device that provides image data is referred to as an "external device" in this specification.

Then, the user chooses a desired image that is to be printed from a plurality of images that have been obtained by taking pictures, for instance, and transmits the image data of the chosen image to the image forming apparatus using operational buttons on the external device. As a result, image data is transmitted from the external device to the image forming apparatus via no personal computer and the image forming apparatus forms the image on one recording sheet according to the image data that has been transmitted from the external device to prints out the image.

Note that it is desirable to constantly supply power to each of the elements including a fixing unit in the image forming apparatus, and especially desirable to constantly keep the temperature of the fixing roller at a fixing temperature for speedy printing out. For this purpose, however, ~~much~~ a large amount of power is wasted by the heater for the fixing roller and the like.

A proposed solution to this problem according to the conventional image forming apparatus is the sleep mode. More specifically, when a certain period of time has elapsed without printing, the sleep mode is applied to stop supplying power to the units including the

heater where a relatively large ~~a much~~ amount of electricity is consumed. When receiving image data from the external device, the image forming apparatus ~~cancel~~ cancels the sleep mode and supplies power to the units.

Meanwhile, the image forming apparatus at the convenience store is equipped with a coin box. According to the amount of money put in the coin box, the number of ~~printing~~ printings is managed. With such a coin box, the image forming apparatus directly satisfied user needs since the user operates the image forming apparatus without permission of the shop clerk. As a result, printing service at the convenience store and the like can be improved.

Although electricity is saved according to the conventional image forming apparatus, it takes a relatively long time to increase the temperature of the fixing unit to a fixing temperature since the sleep mode is canceled after receiving image data from the external device. As a result, a certain period of time elapsed before printing starts. This is inconvenient for the user.

Meanwhile, in some cases, the external device stops working due to insufficient amount of electrical charge of ~~the~~ a secondary battery of the external device ~~in some cases~~, for instance, when the user forgot to recharge ~~recharging~~ the battery. As a result, it is desirable that the secondary battery can be recharged away from home, for instance, at the convenience store. ~~Providing the printing service, the~~ The conventional image forming apparatus providing the printing service cannot recharge the secondary battery. This is also inconvenient for the user.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6, which starts with "Here," with the following amended paragraph:

02 Here, an explanation of the preferred embodiment of an image forming apparatus according to the present invention used in a color printer (referred to as a "printer" in this specification) will be given with reference to the figures.

✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6, which starts with "The printer unit 210" with the following amended paragraph:

03 The printer unit 210 is a so-called tandem-type ~~in the~~ with an intermediate transfer system. The printer unit 210 includes a transfer belt 211, rollers 2111, 2112, and 2113, and a plurality of image forming units 213Y to 213K, a paper cassette 214, a paper supplying unit 215, a transfer unit 216, a fixing unit 217, a paper exiting unit 218, and a sensor 219. The rollers 2111, 2112, and 2113 hold the transfer belt 211 and rotate the transfer belt 211 in the direction of an arrow "A" at a predetermined system speed. The image forming units 213Y to 213K are disposed along the transfer belt 211, form differently colored toner images of yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C), and black (K) according to image signals that have been transferred from the main body control unit 250, and transfer the toner images onto the transfer belt 211 at transfer positions T1 to T4 so that the toner images are superimposed. The paper cassette 214 holds a pile of recording sheets S of a predetermined size. The paper supplying unit 215 supplies the recording sheets S one sheet at a time. The transfer unit 216 re-transfers the toner images that have been transferred onto the transfer belt 211 onto the recording sheet S. The fixing unit 217 is provided with a fixing roller for fixing the different-colored toner onto the recording sheet S by applying heat. The paper exiting unit 218 exits the recording sheet S onto which the toner

ab have been fixed. The sensor 219 optically detects a reference mark (not illustrated) that has been formed on the transfer belt 211.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 11, which starts with "The auxiliary power source" with the following amended paragraph:

ca The auxiliary power source unit 243 is a power-factor-improving switching power source where the phase difference between the ~~current~~ current and the voltage of the AC circuit is almost "0". The auxiliary power source unit 243 converts the current that has been supplied by the input unit 242 into a predetermined DC voltage (here, 5V) by switching operation, and supplies the 5V voltage as the auxiliary power to the main body control unit 250, the coin box 3, and the recharging output control unit 244 as long as the power switch 230 is ON.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 3, which starts with "The DC5V" with the following amended paragraph:

ca The DC5V that has been output to the external device connecting interface unit 220 (in Fig. 2) is sent to the digital camera 5 via the pin VP of the connector 221 and the cable 6. With ~~the secondary battery of the sent DC5V,~~ the secondary battery of the digital camera 5 is recharged. Here, the recharging output permission signal 281 is "1" when the main body control unit 250 permits the power supplying to the digital camera 5 and "0" when the main body control unit 250 does not permit the power supplying to the digital camera.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 6, which starts with "Note that the" with the following amended paragraph:

OK Note that the main power source output permission signal 283 is output from the main body control unit 250 to indicate ~~indicates~~ whether the printer unit 210 is switched to the standby mode or the fixing mode.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 23, which starts with "The I/O unit 256 receives" with the following amended paragraph:

OK The I/O unit 256 receives a variety of sensors including the sensor 219. Also, the I/O unit 256 receives and outputs the external device connecting signal 223 from the external device connecting interface unit 220, a printing permission signal 363 and a recharging permission signal 364 from a coin box control unit 330 of the coin box 3. Here, the printing permission signal 363 is output from the coin box control unit 330 to ~~indicates~~ indicate that image forming operation is permitted when coins are put into the coin box 3. The recharging permission signal 364 is output from the coin box control unit 330 to ~~indicates~~ indicate that power supplying is permitted when coins corresponding to the charge for the power supplying to the digital camera is put into the coin box 3.
